

Welcome to PCAccent. This newsletter is an adjunct, an "accent" if you will, to the PCA's Web site and the PENnant. The Board of Directors will use PCAccent to keep you informed about PCA news and happenings.

PLEASE DO NOT REPLY TO THIS NEWSLETTER! For comments or questions, send email to PCA President Rick Propas. To subscribe or unsubscribe, please send email to Membership Coordinator Kim Sosin. Email addresses for Rick and Kim can be found on the PCA's Web site:

<http://www.pencollectors.com/>

*** Meet the New VP and an Election update, by Carla Mortensen ***

As you may know, I have recently assumed the position of Vice President of the PCA following the resignation of Richard Binder for professional reasons. Richard leaves "big shoes to fill," and I am delighted to report that he is staying on the Board for the remainder of his term.

As Vice President, I plan to help Rick monitor Board activities as well as manage the nominations and elections process. I will also step into the position of President as required in the President's absence (hopefully, never!) and will also continue to serve the membership both formally and informally.

Up to now, the elections procedure has never been formalized, nor is it addressed in the Bylaws. I will fix that this year. In the meantime, we are accepting nominations through the 30th of June and ballots will be distributed, both electronically and by paper, around the 1st of September. Results will be announced around the 1st of October. So far, we have had five outside nominations in addition to the members who are considering re-election, and I regretfully report they have all declined the invitation. We hope there are some stalwart souls who will consider joining us.

For those curious about my non-pen life, I teach English as a Second Language full-time at Portland State University in Portland, Oregon. I am active in my professional community as well as in my undergraduate alumni association as an interviewer for prospective students. Upon occasion, I am asked by the Department of State to conduct leadership training sessions for diplomats from emerging nations, a wonderful sidelight that I have enjoyed for almost 20 years. In my free time, I enjoy a spirited game of cribbage or putter about in my back yard with my dog and cats.

*** Web site and Pens for Kids, by Linda Bauer ***

WebSite: We posted a Request for Proposal for a redesign of the website on pen forums. So far we're had interest from several web designers. The final proposal is due from interested parties on June 15. The proposal will be reviewed by a committee and a contract negotiated.

PFK: We greatly appreciate the generosity of the Sachs-Fultz Collection, which has offered to purchase

a digital projector for our Pens for Kids program. Thank you to Greg Sachs and to Keith Zaransky, curator of the collection for their support of the PCA Pens for Kids Program.

PFK Workshops: It was the second year for the Pens For Kids activities at the Chicago Pen show. Kim Svabik gave out scavenger hunt information for youngsters in attendance. Linda Bauer presented the PFK workshop for "kids of all ages." Participants received a free student fountain pen, saw a slide presentation on pens, and wrote a personal note to experience the expressiveness of handwriting.

Deb Kinney presented the Pens For Kids program at the recent Triangle Pen Show in Cary, NC. Parents and children alike had a great time.

Ralph Stillwell will be conducting the PFK workshop at the Washington DC Pen show.

*** Financial Notes, by Ernesto Soler ***

The 2008 budget process was started at the Board Retreat in April. At this time a balanced budget was drafted and is now in place internally to monitor the PCA financials.

The budget process for 2009 will start in Sep and be wrapped up by November. The board will try to expand the process to create line items and centers for the budget. In order to do this, we will have board members become responsible for their own area of responsibility, including budgeting the lines and monitoring the expenses. Enhancing the budget process will allow us to better oversee our financial health and be more responsive to the membership.

*** Outreach Committee News, by Deb Kinney ***

Calling All Pen Clubs!

With the help of our Volunteer Coordinator, Allan Quiet, I heard from many local pen clubs. In the last issue of the PCAccent, I called on all pen clubs to have someone from their membership get in touch with me. =A0I have heard from many clubs already, but not all. =A0So if you missed my previous call, you have another opportunity to contact me. =A0(See my message from last month:)

The PCA Board wants to be more involved on a local level and we need your help. No matter the size of your pen club, you are important to the PCA. So please send me an email kinney@law.duke.edu with the contact information for your club. In turn, you will receive some PCA information that you can share with your members. The local clubs are the backbone of our hobby and we appreciate the work you do in keeping the hobby alive and growing.

*** PCA Library Project, by Joel Hamiltom ***

If you are not aware, the PCA library materials are located in Ft. Madison, IA and our long time librarian is none other than PCA Past President Dan Reppert. A number of documents have been donated through the years by PCA members which allows us to provide copies of old catalogues, repair manuals and other literature from manufacturers of writing instruments.

Up to this point we have been responding to member requests for documents in the old fashioned way: =A0Dan receives a request and a check and sets forth to make the copies the documents. =A0As we move into the electronic age, we are moving the library to a new platform in which we will offer an opportunity for members to download information from the library directly from the PCA Web Site. This move will require a lot of work. Dan, with help from others, is already working on digitizing all of the documents. =A0The process is slow and labor intensive but our target is to have the majority of the documents digitized by the end of the year which will coincide with the changes being made to the web site. (God willing and the Mississippi don't rise.)

If you plan to donate materials to the library, copy the information to disc and submit it to Dan. If you don't have a scanner and the trip to the local Office Max or Staples is inconvenient, original material can be sent to Dan. His e-mail address is wasp1908@mchsi.com so you can contact him prior to sending a document.

*** Membership, by Kim Sosin ***

Thank you to so many of you who stop by our membership booth at pen shows! Kim Svabik is the *official face* of PCA at pen shows, but, with children and Aaron to take care of :), she isn't able to attend them all. She is looking forward to talking with you at the August show in Washington, DC. We might need some volunteers for a PCA table at the September shows in Michigan and NY/NJ, and the October show in Dallas.

Thanks so much to members who have helped us with this in the past! We add 25 to 30 new members at each major show. Also, the *Pens for Kids* activity initiated at the PCA table is very popular at shows and very positive for the future of pen collecting.